

A giant garden grows in Seattle

By SUSAN SCHWARTZ

Earth Week's mood is gentle this year. Tree plantings have replaced car smashings and mock funerals.

If the new mood has a symbol in Seattle, it is Mrs. Darlyn Rundberg, 8909 27th Ave. N. E. She will spend the week of the environment starting a giant old-fashioned garden — complete with scarecrows — for the children of her North Seattle neighborhood.

Her purpose: To teach young people the joy of growing things.

And she hopes what is grown will help jobless families. "There are a lot of middle-income families who are really having a hard time now. I think there are a lot of families around here on welfare."

Mrs. Rundberg, 29, soft-spoken and long-haired, is not what most people would call an environmental activist. A University of Washington graduate in interior design, she celebrated last Earth Day by riding a bicycle to the architecture firm where she worked and talking over the natural aspects of a site they were working on.

She is a person who likes to grow things. She grew up with home-grown vegetables. "My father always put in a pretty big garden."

SHE AND HER husband built much of their furniture. She keeps a loom in her living room, two ducks and a Damatian in her yard.

The garden dream started when she read a book by Helen and Scott Nearing about close-to-the-earth life on their Vermont maple-sugar farm.

"It was really a gray December day. And I really turned on to it."

A few blocks from her house lay an old truck farm overrun with high grass. The old farm, at 25th Avenue Northeast and Northeast 80th Street, has damp, shaky peat soil that discouraged building as houses grew around it.



Conservation fete to honor ongoing projects

The nation's second Earth Week should emphasize continuing projects, the conservation celebration's Washington, D. C., coordinating committee has said.

In Seattle, planned events seem to be leaning toward a combination Arbor Day and spring festival.

Starting at 2 p. m. today, visitors are invited to Earthstation 7, the refurbished Capitol Hill firehouse that now houses the Environmental Works, a many-sided conservation and planning group. Although today's displays mark the official opening, the group has been using the old firehouse for some time.

Displays are to include a Stanley Steamer auto.

Friday night, a rock concert at the Eagles Auditorium will benefit Earthstation 7. Saturday afternoon, environmental films and a puppet show at the Movie House, Northwest 50th Street and University Way Northeast also will benefit the refurbished firehouse.

A mass bike ride from the Museum of History and Industry to Pioneer Square is planned for 1 p. m. Saturday. The aim: to encourage Edmonds Community College, for example, will begin a campus landscaping project with fertilizer tomorrow, tilling Wednesday and planting Friday.

Seattle University students will try to paint several campus buildings.

Symbolic tree plantings by the Highway Department are planned for the week. One of the plantings will be at 10 a. m. Thursday at a mini-park next to the freeway at Fifth Avenue and Columbia Street.

Western Washington State College in Bellingham will hold a convocation Friday with Gov. Dan Evans as speaker.

ON FRIDAY, Mayor Wes Uhlman will arrive at Westlake Mall in a new city low-pollution vehicle. The mall will be turned over to displays by environmental groups, with monorail fares cut to 10 cents and small trees distributed to the first thousand visitors.

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A mass bike ride from the Museum of History and Industry to Pioneer Square is planned for 1 p. m. Saturday. The aim: to encourage

non-smog-producing vehicles.

The ride will end with a speech on the Pioneer Square Association's hopes for the Pioneer Square Historic District. A stop at Pike Place Market for a speech by Friends of the Market is a possibility.

Capitol Hill residents plan to mark their continuing battle with Safeway Stores with a cleanup, plant-in, picnic and dance Saturday at "Voluntary Park," the corner where they don't want Safeway to put a parking lot.

AND IN West Seattle, citizens are invited to help plant more than 2,000 tiny trees at 9 a. m. Saturday at Puget Park to dramatize desire for a trail system along Pigeon Ridge.

Next Sunday, the year's first Bicycle Sunday at Seward Park, also will see picnicking, live music and environmental exhibits at the park in an Earth Festival and Environmental Fair.

Walter J. Hickel, former secretary of the interior, will speak in Seattle Wednesday night at a dinner sponsored by the Republican Ripon Society. He will speak at 7:30 p. m. April 26 at Green River Community College.

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Tri-Cities spokesman offers economic ideas

By SHELBY GILJE

Tri-Cities industrialists don't want "handouts," they want to save the federal government millions of dollars by efficient use of existing facilities at Hanford.

That was the meat of the message of Sam Volpentest this week to the subcommittee on economic development of the Senate's Committee on Public Works.

Volpentest, executive vice president of the Tri-City Nuclear Industrial Council of Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, criticized the federal government for closing big installations "at will and without apparent regard for the economic crisis which its actions caused."

VOLPENTEST'S testimony was among the most impressive during the two-day hearings. He came armed with thoughtful proposals on diverse projects such as a nuclear museum and a recycling and waste-management effort.

While some speakers simply reiterated the unhappy statistics of unemployment, Volpentest offered plans.

He asked the committee's help in establishing a national environmental research laboratory at Hanford "to make use of the expertise and data accumulated over the past 25 years."

Senator Howard Baker, Tennessee Republican, agreed that a National Environmental Laboratory

"will fit perfectly at Hanford." Baker and Senator Edmund Muskie, Maine Democrat, have co-sponsored a bill for four such labs in the nation.

Volpentest also asked for aid in luring the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor demonstration program at Hanford. The Atomic Energy Commission will award the contract this year. The demonstration plant is essential to the solution of clean-power needs, Volpentest said.

THE AREA needs help, too, in construction of its segment of Interstate 82 to serve industry and tourism.

Volpentest urged that the A. E. C. lower the price tag on available land in the proposed Nuclear Industrial Park. The A. E. C. has said it must receive fair market value or fair rental value.

Volpentest suggested "prices similar to those which the government paid for the land initially with public funds."

AN EXISTING rail-shop maintenance and repair facility at Hanford could be used in the research and development of new form of mass transportation, he said.

Volpentest also suggested a project involving research with warm water from a power plant to see if it could be used for indoor horticulture, aquaculture and the heating of enclosed cities.

He recommended that public funds be used to con-

struct a Hanford National

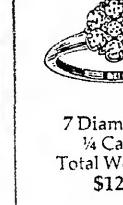
Museum of Natural Science and Waste Management facility.

The facility would provide a place where industrial wastes could be shipped, chemicals and metals recovered to conserve natural resources, and the final residue consolidated and placed in a safe repository.

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First Bicycle Sunday of the year scheduled

The fourth annual Bicycle Sunday program begins next Sunday.

Lake Washington Boulevard south from Mount Baker Park to Seward Park and the Seward Park Loop Road will be closed to automobile traffic from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. so bicycle riders may use the route.

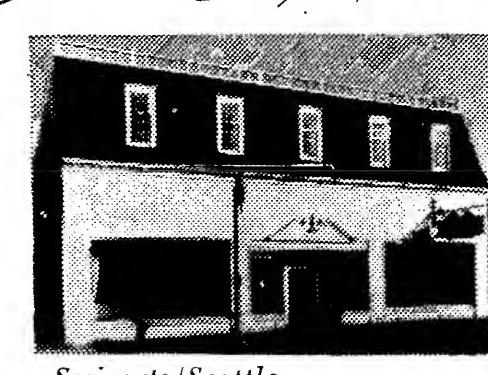
Parking is available across Lake Washington Boulevard south from the Stan Sayres Memorial Pits and at parking lots next to the Seward Park entrance.

Bicycle rental and repair facilities will be at the Sayres Pits along with food concessions, first aid and general information.

Bicycle Sundays are sponsored by the Park Department and will be held the last Sundays of each month through September.

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